

Professional Church Leadership – 4:30 11/8/12

- Introductions – Dianne Steelman, Felipe Candelaria, Julia Bebeau, Jeff Savage, Camille Brown, Andy Arndt, Wesley Sun, Kenneth Kho (attending for Amaury Tanon-Santos)
- As a team, who are we and what have we been charged with from the executive committee?
 - Came out of brainstorming session with officers and Roy in fleshing out what a working board looks like
 - How do we define who we are and how do we do our work?
 - The response groups come out of the primary functions of OGS
 - Not a lot of definition – lots of freedom
- Potential foci
 - How many new ministers leave after 5 years?
 - More and more churches have bivocational ministers
 - primarily driven by health insurance costs
 - What are the special needs here?
- Practical in nature
- Felipe passed out material from the Congregational Transformation Institute (CTI)
 - We were looking at CTI as a model for how we might do pastoral training in other regions.
- Kenneth pointed out that in her doctoral work, Laura Miraz looked at the issue clergy burnout.
 - This might fit with the CTI transformation model, too.
- Wesley asserted that burnout might be an issue of perception and not as big a problem as some might think. In some denominations, pastors are made to work in churches before being ordained, and many choose not to be ordained. ABC, however, ordains before pastorates (often). It's possible that the first pastorate (whether before or after being ordained) may be part of the discernment process.
- How can we be a resource for the professional leaders in our denomination?
 - Together in Ministry conference.
 - CTI model
 - Other possibilities?
 - Many pastors can't afford the time or money to go to conferences, national training, etc.
 - These issues/concerns and solutions will vary from region to region, area to area
 - How do we partner with the regions and not insert ourselves into things that are regional responsibilities?
- We need to have a clear understanding of who's involved in this conversation.
 - The issue of ordination is being addressed by other groups.
- We don't need to be developing programs and policies, but bringing focus to certain problems and issues.

- What is it that brings value to our relationship to our pastors? What does ABCUSA do for that group of customers?
- **Professional Church Leadership – 10:30 11/9/12**
- 2 pieces of ABCUSA fall directly under us
 - Women in Ministry – has advisory group
 - Transitional Ministries – has no advisory group (right now)
- We are responsible for policies and procedures for these groups.
- We also have a global piece that may address the issues we've been talking about.
 - We can bring other people/entities in to talk about pastoral issues.
 - We can look at standards for clergy misconduct, best practices, etc.
 - We can also connect other people/entities to one another.
- We can function as an advisory team for Transitional Ministries.
- There are other denominations/traditions whose churches are routinely in transition (itinerant pastors). Can we learn from their experiences?
- 1st step for us may be asking questions (perhaps bringing in regional execs to find out about issues, bring in seminary president to ask what can be done to address issues).
- We'll have to prioritize our time & resources and potentially limit our scope.
- We will communicate through conference calls, too, because meeting twice a year won't be enough to do our work.
- Related to interim ministers, churches may need training for moderators/lay leaders as well.
- We will have a conference call on January 25th at 1:00 pm EST. In preparation, Pat will send out two booklets for us to read. Also, come to the phone call with a name or two of people to bring in and talk to us.